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Comp of
the Mine Adventurers
of Eng

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Letters concerning the Mines.

Received since the GENERAL-COURT,
held in November last.

November the 20th, Mr. Waller to the Directors.

THere is a new Vein at *Cumystwith* a Yard wide, and one of the Mines there holds well in Silver: We daily improve in our way of Smelting: We shall have three Foreheads in *Cwmsumblock*, whereas the Patentees had but one: the middle Level comes under the *Old Man*, fifty two Yards all in Ore.

November the 24th.

Cumystwith and *Ystimgien* raise Oar very plentifully; we have several Veins and Shafts there down to Oar.

December the 4th.

We are blasting through the hard Rocks at *Goginian*, where the *Old Man* left off for want of understanding this way of working, and it being too hard for their Tools: This Vein yields forty four Ounces of fine Silver in a Tun of Lead.

December the 11th.

We are come to a Stoupe in *Goginian* Work, and have some Oar, but it is not yet settled in a firm Rib.

December the 18th.

The Forefield in *Goginian* is all mixed with Oar three Foot wide, but no Rib yet; the Lead Mines raise Oar very well.

December the 25th.

The Weekly Committees below, appointed by the Directors, when last at the Mines, contribute much to the better carrying on Affairs with us; *Eskirfraith* Level is come into Oar; *Bettons* Works at *Cumystwith* mends daily; *Goginian* Vein goes well on.

January the 8th.

We are going to set new Bargains at *Cumystwith* and *Ystimgien*; and shall shortly send you a Map of *Cwmsumblock*.

January the 15th.

The Veins at *Cumystwith* go well forward, and we raise great Quantities of Oar, having several Veins, and a deep Level.

January the 22d.

I am bringing up three Levels to *Cwmsumblock*, which in time will yield Quantities of that rich Oar; one Level there cost the Patentees eleven thousand Pounds. I am under Mr. *Bushall's* Work at *Goginian*, and the Oar encreases there.

January the 27th.

The Veins at *Cumystwith* and *Ystimgien* continue very good, and we raise Oar faster than we can carry it.

February the 19th.

Inclosed is a Map of *Cwmsumblock*, where we are driving to the Quick Vein in several places, which will require time; but when finished, will yield full recompence, being so very rich in Silver.

February the 19.

I am carrying on the Silver Mines with all the Care I can; *Brinpica* Shaft is finished; *Cwmartin* is come to strings of Oar; *Caninog* Level goes well forward: We Smelt about thirteen and a half of Lead out of a Tun of *Eskir-bir* hard Ore, the first running, without Iron Flux.

February the 24th.

I go to-morrow to set new Bargains at *Eskir-byr*, *Eskirfraith*, and *Caninog*, where I have

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have taken off many Men, according to your Order, to work with greater dispatch at the Silver Mines.

March the third.

I am driving at *Eskir-hyr* from the Level, and Old Vein, a Cross-Cut to the Great Vein, where the Sides prove very hard, which is a good sign that the Vein will prove well: *Eskir-fraith* and *Caninog* Level go well forward: I am sinking a deep Shaft at *Cwmsumblock*, Eighty Yards deep.

March the 14.

We work our Silver Mines Night and Day; and we are come to a small Rib of Oar at *Goginian*.

March the 26th.

The Rib of Oar in *Goginian* encreases upon us: If this Vein comes to eighteen Inches or two Foot, it will yield us Silver enough, as soon as I can make room for Men to work.

April the 2d.

I have got this Week to half a Yard wide in a firm solid Rib of Oar in *Goginian*; we have nothing new in the other Works.

April the 8th.

I am going to set new Bargains at *Eskir-hir*, *Eskir-fraith*, *Caninog*, *Cwmsumblock*, *Pencraig-dy*, *Cwmarvin*, *Brinpica*, and *Goginian*.

April the 16th.

We raise Ore plentifully at the Lead Mines that are not rich in Silver.

April the 23d.

Goginian Veins goes well forward, and is wrought Day and Night.

April the 30th.

Ystimatean North Veine proves as good as the South, and raises Ore plentifully: There is no Alterations in the rest of our Works, which go on well.

May the 12th.

That he had pursued the Order of the Court of Directors, in removing most of the Men from *Eskir-hir* to the Silver Mines, which were carried on, and wrought Night and Day; but *Eskir-hir* is in readiness to raise Ore, when the price of Lead shall rise, and more Men can be had.

May the 14th.

We have Three hundred Tun of Lead now ready for Market, besides what is at *Neath*; and with you could send it directly to *Lisbon* or the *Streights*, without paying double Freight, and running twice the hazard in sending it first to other Ports in *England*, and then back again.

May the 21st.

I have found another Leading in the *Goginian* Vein, two Inches wide, and a Rider a Yard wide, all mixed with Ore; which in all probability will be firm Ore, when the Work shall be driven a little farther: All the Lead Mines go well forward.

May the 28th.

The Leading in the *Goginian* Silver Vein is increased to four Inches wide; no Alterations in the other Works.

June the 4th.

Cwmsumblock low Level is come to strings of Ore: *Ystimatean* Vein yields Ore in great quantities, and so doth *Cumystwith*, both which I viewed this Day; we have one hundred twenty five Horses carrying Ore at this one Work; and I doubt not in time, to have Silver Ore as plenty as Lead Ore.

June the 11th.

The new Vein in *Cumystwith* is two Foot wide in good Ore; *Goginian* continues mixed with Ore; we are getting down our Air Shafts at *Cwmsumblock* with all speed, but the Stone proves very hard.

June the 18th.

Caninog Level goes very well forward; that Vein in one Drift is Seven Foot wide in clean Ore.

June the 22d.

The Rib of Ore at *Goginian* is increased to six Inches wide, of solid Ore; in the rest no Alteration.

June the 25th.

Goginian is wonderfully increased to sixteen Inches wide in pure Silver Ore; and *Cumystwith* will employ a whole Country of Miners.

June the 28th.

I have sent a Sample of the *Goginian* Vein to *London*, and it is all such Ore for half a Yard wide, and yields forty four Ounces of fine Silver in a Tun of Lead, which is above twice as rich as the Ore that is refined in *Flint-shire*.

July



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July the 2d.

Goginian Vein doth still encrease, and is now a brave Vein of two Foot wide in good Ore.

July the 5th.

The upper Drift in *Goginian* is now also come into Ore, so that we are secure of this rich Ore from top to bottom, for sixty five Yards deep; and as it goes on, it will be deeper under the Hill.

July the 7th.

I have sent you a Map of *Goginian*, which is now a full Yard wide in good solid Ore.

July the 12th.

Cwmsumblock low Level is now mixed with Ore, the Stoups at *Goginian* go well on, and the Vein still widens forward.

July the 16th.

I am going my Rounds to morrow, and shall give you an account of every Alteration in the Works; but where there is none, I need not trouble you.

July the 18th.

Yesterday I was at *Ystimatean*, where the North and South Veins go on bravely, and we raise good quantities of Ore in both Works.

July the 23d.

At *Cumyftwith* we have famous Works, and raise Ore in several places; all the Veins there are daily mending upon us, and there is one Vein yields rich in Silver.

July the 28th.

Goginian Vein still improves, and will be a Key to a great Treasure: I have set that Work to fix of my best Miners: *Brinpica* Vein and *Cwmarvin* begin to sparkle with Ore.

August the 2d.

Cwmsumblock Levels are carried on Night and Day with all diligence; we must have patience there; but that Work will at last exceed them all: the Shafts are deep, and the Rock very hard.

August the 6th.

There is a small Rib of Ore come in at *Cwmsumblock*, which promises well.

August the 9th.

Cwmarvin Vach is carried on with vigour, and is as rich in Silver as *Cwmsumblock*: *Goginian* goes well on, both in the upper and lower Drift, which will be as profitable for the time, as if they were two several Veins.

August the 13th.

I have ordered a Cross-Cut from *Cwmsumblock* to *Cwmarvin*, which if it hits true, will be a great advantage to us.

August the 16th.

I have cut to the top of *Cwmarvin* Vach Vein, but must stay farther working there, till *Cwmsumblock* Level comes up to it.

August the 20th.

The upper Drift at *Goginian* cuts much softer than formerly: I have three Shafts going down there.

August the 27th.

We are so full of our Silver Mines, that I do not trouble you with the Lead Mines, all which go well on; but we do not raise much at *Eskir-bir*, because the Men are removed to the *Goginian* and other Veins.

August the 30th.

We raise Ore at *Cumyftwith* at five several places or Veins; and our Silver Mine there is now above a Yard wide. We have several more Veins, which the Miners at their leisure find out, without any Charge to the Company: *Goginian* improves upon us.

September the 6th.

Mr *Jackson* the Merchant is come to view the Mines and Works: I shewed him *Eskir-bir*, where we are raising Ore in three several places, at forty Yards deep; and at *Caninos* he saw the Vein between six and seven Foot in pure cleane Ore.

September the 12th.

On Tuesday I waited on Mr *Jackson* to *Cwmsumblock*; I shewed him ~~the~~ are driving Westward in two Ribs of Ore, and where we cut the old Level through, and let off the Water, in which place we had like to have lost a good Miner, by the sudden Force of the Water: We expect a great Treasure, in time, from the help of this Level: I shewed him several other Veins, but that which pleased him very well, was the sight of *Goginian*, where he waded in Miners Clogs and Stockins, to the middle of his Legs, in running Water, three hundred Yards, to see the Forefield of that Vein, which is between three and four Foot wide in rich Silver Ore; and as soon as I can make room for a number of Men, to stand to work in several Stoups in that Vein, you will not want quantities of Silver. I also shewed him *Ystimatean* and *Cumyftwith*, where he saw great quantities of Ore on the Banks, and many Men at work, raising Ore in several Veins,

Veins, some two Foot, and some four Foot wide: Then I shewed him *Silver-Hill*, where we have four Veins meet in a fine strake of Ground, for three Miles together.

September the 20th.

Mr *Waller* having set his Works in order, desires leave to go to the North to fetch more Miners, where he proposes to stay about a Month.

October the 1st. Mr. *Shut*, (Assistant to Mr. *Waller*,) to the Directors.

We are raising Ore in three Shafts at *Eskir bir*, and carrying on the Level at *Eskir-fraith* to the great Vein: We raise Ore plentifully at *Caninog*; go well on at *Cwmsumblock*, where we are secure of a great Treasure; and *Goginian* continues it's wideness in Ore: We raise quantities of Ore in the several Veins at *Cumystwith* and *Ystimtean*, and are every where prosperous. Here came a Gentleman to view the Mines, from some of the Partners; his Name was Mr. *Lewis*, who seem'd surpriz'd to see so many rich Mines, and said, he should not be believed in *London*.

October the 18th.

The Ore in the West End of *Cwmsumblock* is five Inches wide: no Alterations in the other Works.

October the 25th. Mr. *Waller* to the Directors.

I am return'd from the North, and have brought with me twelve Choice Miners, and have hired Sixty, and am promised twenty or thirty more if I send for them.

October the 29th.

I have viewed all the Mines, and find them in good order.

November the 1st.

I am now raising Stoups at *Goginian*, and making room for more Men to work at that rich Mine, and have sent you a Map of the Vein: Twenty Tun of this Ore yields five hundred Ounces of Silver; but we have a small Vein at *Cumystwith* at *Silver Hill*, that on some Trials, has yielded one hundred and ten Ounces of Silver out of a Tun of Lead: We need never fear Quantities of Silver Ore, as soon as I can make room for numbers of Hands to work in the Veins.

November the 3th.

I could help you to a Black-Lead Mine, if you could find a Consumption for it: They sell the worst at sixty Pounds per Tun, the middle at a hundred, and the best at a hundred and forty Pounds per Tun; but you cannot vend one thousand Tuns in seven Years. I have try'd it the common way for Silver, and it holds out about Eighty Pounds per Tun; but I will try it with Quick-silver, for, when smelted, it looks like Silver it self.

November the 8th.

I came on *Wednesday* to *Ystimtean*, which I found in very good order; and then went to *Cumystwith*, where all the Veins improve, especially the rich Vein on *Silver-Hill*.

November the 15th.

The Upper-Level at *Goginian* is now all mixed with Ore; the Ore in the Low-Level there, gets much quicker than it did: *Cwmsumblock* goes well on; I doubt not to shew you good Work in that rich Silver-Mine in a short time, for I have a Prospect in several places, and want but twenty three Yards to a place which I left a Yard wide in Ore, and could not go on without this Level.

November the 19th.

I am in hopes to meet the Vein a Yard wide at *Cwmsumblock*, thirteen Yards sooner than I expected: I have set a Bargain at another place to raise Ore there, for fifty Shillings a Tun: The Rib widens upon us, and I shall be quickly in fresh Ground, where it will prove better.

November the 23d.

We are within four Foot of the Forebreast at *Cwmsumblock*, where we are Twenty Yards under the *Old Man*, and the Sole is one hundred and four Yards long, which will hold many Men to work at a time; and I hope in a Fortnight's time to be raising Ore there, both in the Stoups and in the Bottom: The West Forehead is now ten Inches wide in Ore, so that by the Increase I find we are right in the Vein: In another place I was at the end of Ore a Yard wide, which the middle Level will discharge, and hope to come to it in ten Yards more: At *Goginian* Low-Level the Ore continues large, and jointy, and more easie to be raised; the upper work is a Yard wide, mixed with Ore in good Cutting-Work; I manage now above twenty Mines, and hope at last for a good Reward.



